United Nations ST/IC/1999/108

Secretariat

15 December 1999

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue: "International Year of Thanksgiving – 2000" stamps**

Commemorative stamps

1. The coming of a new millennium is reflected in themes chosen for special observance by the General Assembly, and some of these themes will be the basis of the United Nations stamp issues in the year 2000. As recommended by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, by resolution 52/16 of 20 November 1997, proclaimed 2000 the International Year of Thanksgiving.

2. On 1 January 2000, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of three commemorative stamps on this theme. The stamps were designed by Rorie Katz (United States of America).

(United States equivalents — F.S. 0,90 = 57 cents and S 7/Euro 0,51 = 51 cents — subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

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3. The stamps, which are printed in offset lithography and a relatively new printing process termed thermography, are in denominations of 33 cents, F.S. 0,90, and S 7/Euro 0,51, and will be issued in sheets of 20 stamps.

The design

4. The stamps depict the "spiral of life" Glory Window located within the Court of All Nations created to honour the thanksgivings of the people, in Dallas, Texas. The owner of the window is the Thanks-Giving Foundation and the maker and designer is Gabrielle Loire of Chartres, France.

5. UNPA gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Thanks-Giving Foundation in giving permission for the reproduction of the Glory Window as a United Nations stamp issue.

6. It may be recalled that it was the Thanks-Giving Foundation that arranged and financed the creation of the mosaic "The Golden Rule" by Norman Rockwell, which was a gift from the United States to the United Nations on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary. "The Golden Rule" was reproduced on the 50-cent definitive stamp issued on 11 September 1991.

General information

7. Since 1 January is a Saturday, United Nations Headquarters will be closed. However, the New York first-day hand-cancellation will be available on a hand-back basis for the month of January at the UNPA offices located in the DC2 Building, 6th floor, from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

8. The new stamps will be on sale, along with prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachet *only*, when the UNPA counter reopens on Tuesday, 4 January.